

Communications Assistance Packet

Administrators

Teachers

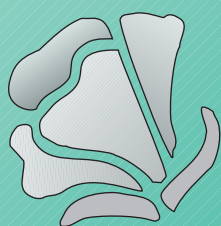
Parents

Students

Community

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2000



**Golden
State
Examination**

GSE

Updated November 1999

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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* This packet includes a series of reproducible masters for district and school use.

Using the Communications Assistance Packet

The use of individual results from Golden State Examinations to qualify students for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma has increased public interest in these exams and the need for districts and schools to keep their teachers, students, parents, school board members, and others well informed. In addition, the Golden State Diploma program, requiring that all districts make the Golden State Examination (GSE) available to students, places more responsibility on districts and school staffs to communicate effectively.

Informing Key Stakeholders

This assistance packet provides up-to-date information about the GSE and the Golden State Diploma. It is designed as reproducible masters that can be used with a variety of audiences in different settings. For example, superintendents and other district leaders can use this material to present an overview to school board members, their management teams, district parent advisory committees, and community groups. Principals can use the information with their school staffs, at parent/student information nights, and to respond to parent and student questions about the two programs.

Parent Communications

Parents can help their students achieve academic success as Golden State Scholars. With timely information about the GSE and Golden State Diploma, parents can provide ongoing support and help with planning and preparation activities for success on the examinations. Communication to parents about these programs should begin before their students enter eighth grade and continue throughout high school. Transparency masters, parent brochures (in English and Spanish), and other presentation materials are included in the packet for this purpose.

Student Planning

Two worksheets are included in the packet for individual student use:

- The *Student Planning Guide* is designed to encourage students to chart a course of study early that can help them earn recognition for achievement on the Golden State Examinations or as a recipient of the Golden State Diploma.
- The *Student Status Report* provides a document that can be included in their records to use with applications to colleges, universities, and military academies.

GSE Teacher Guides

The teacher guides that cover each GSE are provided to districts and schools in a separate package. The guides have been designed as reproducible masters and include content and format descriptions for exams, scoring guides, sample questions, and student responses with teacher commentary. Teachers are encouraged to reproduce all or any part of the guides for classroom use. This information also can be used to provide further information for parents, school boards, and other community members.

More Information Available

For more information about the GSE and Golden State Diploma, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the CDE at:

Telephone: (916) 657-3011

Fax: (916) 657-4964

E-mail: star@cde.ca.gov

The Communications Assistance Packet and the GSE Teacher Guides also are available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/sca> on the Internet.



Golden State Examination–2000

Program Overview

The Golden State Examination (GSE) was established in 1983 by Senate Bill 813/Chapter 498, reauthorized in 1991 by Senate Bill 662/Chapter 760, and reenacted in 1995 by Assembly Bill 265/Chapter 950. Since the program began, the GSE has offered rigorous examinations in key academic subjects to students in grades 7–12. The GSE recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding levels of achievement on each examination.

In 1996, Assembly Bill 3488/Chapter 204 established the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma to recognize graduates who have mastered the high school curriculum in designated content areas. More than 1,370 Golden State Diplomas were awarded to qualifying 1997 graduates, and 2,685 were awarded in 1998. To date, more than 4,410 diplomas have been awarded to 1999 graduates. To be eligible for the Golden State Diploma, students must attain high honors, honors, or recognition designations on six Golden State Examinations.

Scope of the GSE

The original GSE legislation called for the development of tests in several academic subject areas: mathematics, U.S. history, laboratory sciences, literature and composition, foreign languages, health sciences, and visual and performing arts, as well as in other academic subjects that are a part of the high school curriculum. A list of the Golden State Examinations and the first year of their administration follow:

- **First-year Algebra and Geometry, 1987**
- **U.S. History and Economics, 1990**
- **Biology and Chemistry, 1991**
- **Second-year Coordinated Science, 1994**
- **Written Composition, 1996**
- **Government/Civics, 1997**
- **Reading/Literature and High School Mathematics, 1998**
- **Physics and Spanish Language, 1999**

The Golden State Examinations assess students' knowledge of the subjects and their application of that knowledge. The examinations include multiple-choice and written-response questions. The science examinations also include laboratory tasks.

The content of the examinations, except for Spanish language, is based on content standards adopted by the State Board of Education. In accordance with the 1999–2000 state budget, all Golden State Examinations will be reviewed to ensure their full alignment to these standards.

Motivating Academic Excellence

The GSE supports the overall goal of California's public schools to increase student achievement in key subjects. The program provides incentives for students to make their best efforts in the pursuit of academic excellence. The GSE is designed to excite a broad range of students about school, further education, and their own potential.

The GSE program:

- **challenges and motivates students to higher-level performances in key academic courses**
- **recognizes and rewards students for their accomplishments**
- **offers the opportunity to earn the Golden State Diploma**
- **increases the number of students who successfully complete course requirements for high school graduation and college or university admission**

District Participation

The Golden State Diploma program requires that districts make all of the Golden State Examinations available to students. Student eligibility for participating in the GSE has not changed.

Student Recognition

Students who meet or surpass the three highest levels of achievement on a GSE are recognized as Golden State Scholars. The three levels are identified as high honors, honors, and recognition. All Golden State Scholars receive academic excellence awards from the state, and the high honors and honors designees receive a gold insignia for their diplomas. Notice of success on the GSE becomes part of a student's permanent transcript, signaling high achievement to colleges, universities, and employers. Golden State Scholars who qualify for the Golden State Diploma are awarded an official diploma from the state, and this designation is added to recipients' records.

**Questions about the Golden State Examinations
and the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
should be directed to the
Standards and Assessment Division
California Department of Education
(916) 657-3011.**



Questions and Answers About the GSE

What is the purpose of the GSE?

The purpose of the GSE program is to recognize students who demonstrate outstanding achievement on rigorous examinations in key academic subjects. Through the GSE, students also can earn the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.

Who is eligible to take the GSE?

Students who are enrolled in a GSE subject area at the time the examination is given and students who took the course since the previous test administration may take the exam. Exceptions are written composition, reading/literature, high school mathematics, and Spanish language. The exams in language arts and high school mathematics are designed to test mastery of the high school curriculum and are not attached to a specific course. Students in either grade eleven or twelve can take the exams in written composition and reading/literature. The high school mathematics examination is intended for students who have completed three years of high school mathematics. The content of this exam is based on the standards adopted by the State Board of Education for algebra I, geometry, algebra II, and probability and statistics. Students completing a second-year integrated mathematics course may take either the first-year algebra exam, the geometry exam, or both. Students may take the Spanish language examination at the end of their second year of Spanish or its equivalent. Students are eligible to take each GSE only one time.

Why should students take the GSE?

Students taking the GSE can benefit in at least four ways:

- Students can gain confidence as they prepare for higher education and work.
- Local businesses and service organizations can use the GSE to reward student achievements.
- Prospective employers and institutions of higher education can recognize recipients.
- Students can work toward attaining the Golden State Diploma.

What happens when students do well?

Students who achieve high honors, honors, and recognition on a GSE receive an academic excellence award from the state and have their achievement recorded on their high school transcripts. Students who achieve honors designations also receive a gold insignia on their diplomas. All three designations help students qualify for the Golden State Diploma.

Is there a charge for the examination?

The Golden State Examinations are administered at state expense for all public school students.

When are the examinations given?

The GSE in high school mathematics, economics, government/civics, written composition, and reading/literature examinations are administered in January. First-year algebra, geometry, U.S. history, economics, government/civics, biology, chemistry, second-year coordinated science, physics, and Spanish language are given each year in May.

How can schools sign up to participate?

Approximately three to four months prior to test administration, district superintendents receive registration forms for participation. Schools must sign up through their district testing office.

How can students prepare for the GSE?

Topics covered on the examinations are listed in the GSE teacher guides. The content of the exams, except Spanish language, is based on State Board-adopted content standards. Students will need to use their knowledge of the content tested. They will also use analytic, problem-solving, and writing skills.

When are GSE results available?

The reporting of GSE results occurs twice each year. Districts receive results of the winter test administration in May and results of the spring test administration in October.

What are the procedures for giving the GSE?

Procedures for administering Golden State Examinations are described in the coordinator's and administration manuals that are shipped with the testing materials. Information covered in the manuals includes administration procedures, special accommodations, proctor instructions, and instructions for returning materials.

How are the examinations developed?

A committee of teachers, university professors, and other subject area specialists develops the questions for each examination. During the development process, Golden State Examinations are reviewed and field-tested extensively. The tests also undergo thorough content, community, and technical reviews to ensure that the tests provide reliable and valid results and are accessible to all students, avoid biased or offensive content, and do not violate the privacy of students and their families.



Golden State Examination–2000

Facts about the Golden State Examination and the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

- In its first year (1987), GSE offered two examinations—first-year algebra and geometry.
- In 1999, GSE offered thirteen examinations—first-year algebra, geometry, high school mathematics, U.S. history, economics, government/civics, biology, chemistry, second-year coordinated science, physics, reading/literature, written composition, and Spanish language.
- Exams completed have increased from 96,567 in 1987 to 1,094,956 in 1999.
- About one out of three GSE participants earns high honors, honors, or recognition designations each year.
- The new Golden State Seal Merit Diploma recognizes high school graduates who demonstrate mastery of the high school curriculum in designated content areas.
- To be eligible for the Golden State Diploma, students must attain high honors, honors, or recognition designations on Golden State Examinations in U.S. history, written composition or reading/literature, a mathematics exam, a science exam, and two other Golden State Examinations of the student's choice.
- More than 1,370 graduates were awarded Golden State Diplomas in 1997, the first year of the program, and 2,685 diplomas were awarded in 1998.
- To date, 4,410 diplomas have been awarded to 1999 graduates.

Number of Students Completing Golden State Examinations

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991 *	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999**
First-year Algebra	56,075	72,506	82,852	91,296	18,826	80,524	107,744	110,884	127,828	148,100	170,123	169,390	180,908
Geometry	40,582	51,281	58,241	69,925	9,858	49,183	68,897	72,146	85,548	99,100	113,025	113,300	120,655
U.S. History				19,534	3,536	32,182	49,986	49,051	54,930	71,050	89,034	97,082	101,892
Economics				8,055	972	10,826	32,292	34,342	41,469	48,000	54,996	71,941	75,263
Biology					2,072	30,734	48,188	53,447	58,744	72,900	96,727	106,741	118,722
Chemistry					1,241	21,207	30,429	35,658	38,504	47,350	64,184	71,320	78,695
2nd-year Coordinated Science								5,661	13,637	16,350	21,123	22,793	26,055
Written Composition										14,741	104,356	140,209	93,854
Government/Civics											26,682	69,479	71,552
High School Mathematics												47,999	35,811
Reading/Literature												55,622	69,279
Physics													32,480
Spanish Language													89,790
Total Completing	96,657	123,787	141,093	188,810	36,505	224,656	337,536	361,189	420,660	517,591	740,250	965,876	1,094,956

* In 1991, the participation rate dropped because districts were required to pay for students to be assessed.

** 1999 was the first year high school mathematics, reading/literature, and written composition were offered in the winter administration only.

Note: Correct multiple-choice responses have been circled.

Mathematics—Sample Questions

First-year Algebra Multiple-choice Questions

1. Simplify: $\left(\frac{3m^2n}{2p^0q^{-4}}\right)^2$.

A. $\frac{3m^4n^2}{2q^8}$

B. $\frac{9m^4n^2}{4q^8}$

☒ C. $\frac{9m^4n^2q^8}{4}$

D. $\frac{9m^4n^2q^8}{4p^2}$

2. Which of the following equations represents a line passing through $(-2, 3)$ and $(4, -1)$?

A. $2x - 3y = -13$

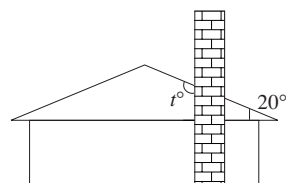
☒ B. $2x + 3y = 5$

C. $3x - 2y = -12$

D. $3x + 2y = 0$

Geometry Multiple-choice Questions

3. The figure shows a sketch of a house for which the roof makes an angle of 20° with the horizontal and the chimney is perpendicular to the horizontal line. What is the degree measure of t ?



(Note: Figure not drawn to scale.)

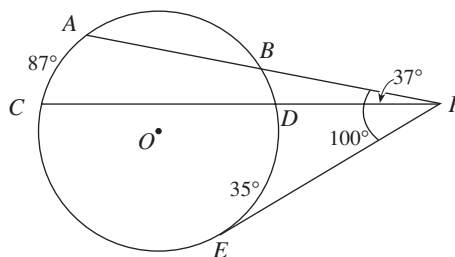
A. 70

☒ B. 110

C. 120

D. 160

4. Given circle O with secant \overline{AP} , secant \overline{CP} and tangent \overline{EP} , $\angle APE = 100^\circ$. The measures are as indicated in the diagram. What is the measure of arc AB in degrees?



(Note: Figure not drawn to scale.)

☒ A. 64

B. 80

C. 90

D. 134

High School Mathematics Multiple-choice Question

5. A bag contains four one-dollar bills, two five-dollar bills, and two ten-dollar bills. Two randomly selected bills are removed from the bag. What is the probability that neither bill is a ten-dollar bill?

A. $\frac{2}{7}$

☒ B. $\frac{15}{28}$

C. $\frac{2}{3}$

D. $\frac{3}{4}$

High School Mathematics Written-response Problem

6. Teresa needs your advice. She is considering a one-time, long-term investment with no withdrawals. Her banker presents her with two options:

Option 1

Invest \$10,500 at 3% interest
compounded annually

Option 2

Invest \$10,000 at 4% interest
compounded annually

She wishes to choose the option that will give her the most money. Advise Teresa on which option to take.

A complete response will include your answer to the question, all parts of your solution shown, and an explanation of how you arrived at your answer.

Language Arts—Sample Questions**Reading/Literature Multiple-choice Questions**

Students read the 1,150 word essay “On Excellence,” by Cynthia Ozick. After reading the text, they respond to a series of multiple-choice or written-response questions. A sample of the multiple-choice questions follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7. The word “fabrication” in line 45 might best be defined as | 8. Which of the following is used as the basis of an extended analogy in the passage? |
| A. failing. | A. grandfather clocks |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> B. inventing things. | B. cooking |
| C. disciplining. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> C. the snail |
| D. sewing. | D. gardening |
-

Written Composition 45-minute Essay Question

9. “To like and dislike the same things, that is indeed true friendship.”

Sallust, Roman historian and politician

Write an essay in which you:

- State the extent to which you agree or disagree with the author
- Develop your points using specific examples, reasons, and details

Spanish Language—Sample Questions

Spanish Language Multiple-choice Questions

10. Hace dos horas que Elena _____ la televisión.

- (A.) mira B. mire C. miro D. miré

¡Qué día tuve ayer! Primero, _____ 11 _____ tarde y no tuve tiempo para tomar _____ 12 _____. Llegué tarde a mi primera clase, y la maestra estuvo muy _____ 13 _____ conmigo.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 11. A. me acosté | 12. (A.) el desayuno | 13. A. aburrida |
| B. me vestí | B. el almuerzo | B. casada |
| (C.) me desperté | C. la merienda | C. cansada |
| D. me cepillé | D. la cena | (D.) enojada |

Spanish Language Written-response Task

14. Ud. es reportero/a de la emisora de televisión de su escuela. Su tarea esta semana consiste en elaborar una reseña de un restaurante. Escriba su guión. Incluya dónde está el restaurante, qué clase de comida se sirve, y los precios. ¿A quién recomendaría este restaurante y por qué?

You are a reporter for your school's local TV station. Your assignment this week is to write a restaurant review. Write your script. Include where the restaurant is, what kind of food is served, and the prices. To whom would you recommend this restaurant and why?

History-Social Science—Sample Questions

U.S. History Multiple-choice Questions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 15. Which of the following areas of the United States grew most rapidly in population after the Second World War? | 16. An important and lasting change brought to our federal government by the New Deal was that |
| A. Rocky Mountain states | A. government should remain small and limited. |
| B. Midwest farm belt | B. government's chief responsibility is to aid business. |
| C. Northeast industrial corridor | (C.) government's responsibility includes the stimulation of the economy and the welfare of the people. |
| (D.) Southwest sun belt | D. in times of depression, government must set an example by saving money and balancing the budget. |

Government/Civics Multiple-choice Questions

17. During debate over ratifying the Constitution, the Federalists argued that it was
- A. impossible to safeguard the rights of states from the power of a strong central government.
 - ☒ B. possible to extend a republican form of government over a large territory.
 - C. inevitable that slavery would be abolished in the new republic.
 - D. illegal to replace the Articles of Confederation with a new constitution.
18. All the following are associated with the progressive reform movement in California cities EXCEPT
- A. the adoption of the secret ballot.
 - ☒ B. the creation of town meetings.
 - C. the control and regulation of public utilities.
 - D. the creation of direct primaries in all state and local elections.

Economics Essay Question

19. **Economics News Flash...**
New Computer Chip Cuts Computer Costs in Half

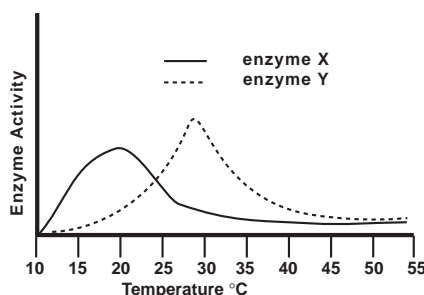
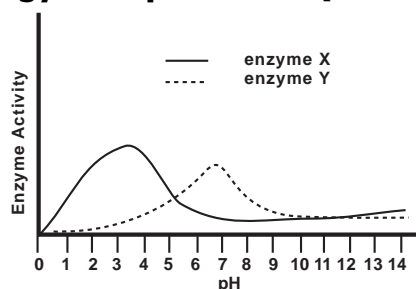
Answer the following questions by writing an essay using the tools of economic analysis including demand and supply graphs and other related concepts:

- A. What are the immediate and long-term impacts of this change on computer sellers and buyers?
- B. What other industries will be affected and how will they be affected?
- C. Identify the gainers and losers from this event, and explain why they gain or lose.

Laboratory Sciences—Sample Questions

Biology Multiple-choice Question

20.

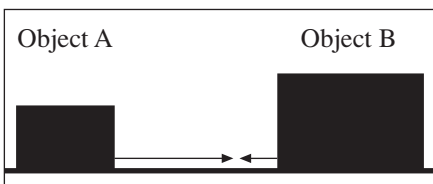


What are the ideal conditions for enzyme Y?

- | <u>pH</u> | <u>Temperature</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| A. pH 3 | 30 °C |
| B. pH 7 | 37 °C |
| C. pH 5 | 37 °C |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> D. pH 7 | 30 °C |

Physics Multiple-choice Question

18.



A 30 kg object (object A) sliding at 8 m/s across a frictionless surface collides head-on with a 60 kg object (object B) sliding at 2 m/s in the opposite direction. During the collision, the force of object A on object B

- A. is one quarter the force of object B on object A.
- B. is one half the force of object B on object A.
- ☒ C. is equal to the force of object B on object A.
- D. is twice the force of object B on object A.

Chemistry Laboratory Task

This task consists of a laboratory experiment, Part A, and an application question, Part B. They will be scored separately. Your final score will be based on your answers to both Part A and Part B. You should plan on spending about 30 minutes on Part A and 15 minutes on Part B.

Directions

These instructions will not be repeated during the procedures.

Read and follow the steps of this lab in the order given.

Record all observations, results, and answers to the questions as directed.

Immediately notify your instructor of spills, missing equipment, or other problems.

STATEMENT OF THE TASK

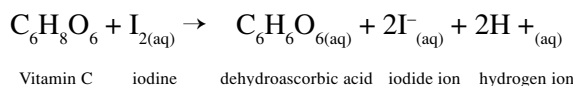
Vitamin C, also known as ascorbic acid, is an important part of a healthy diet since humans cannot make Vitamin C in their bodies. The major functions of Vitamin C are to promote healing and fight infections. It has other functions in the body related to its strong tendency to release electrons in chemical reactions. Without Vitamin C, people develop a condition known as scurvy. Symptoms of scurvy include bleeding gums, swollen joints, and the slow healing of wounds.

Vitamin C is the least stable of all vitamins. It readily reacts with oxygen and other oxidizing agents and breaks down when exposed to heat and light. It is water-soluble and cannot be stored in the body. Any excess is excreted with other liquids. Therefore it is necessary for humans to ingest some Vitamin C every day. The U.S. Government's Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for adults (16 years and older) is 60 milligrams per day.

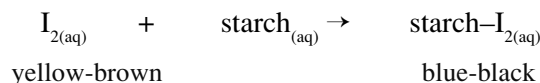
In this investigation you will analyze the amount of Vitamin C in juice through titration, study the effect of a metal ion on Vitamin C, and make recommendations regarding the packaging and storage of a drink containing Vitamin C.

PART A

To determine the Vitamin C content, you will be reacting the solution with the oxidizing agent, iodine. The reaction is given below:



Starch is added to provide a color change to signal the titration endpoint. Once all of the Vitamin C has been reacted, starch reacts with iodine as shown below:



Therefore, the first sign of the blue-black color indicates the endpoint.

Determining the Iodine to Vitamin C Relationship Through Titration

- Using the known concentration of Vitamin C solution, add 10 drops of the solution to one well and 10 drops to a second well.
- Add 2 drops of starch solution to each of these wells.
- To one of the wells, add 1 drop of iodine (I_2) solution. Using a toothpick, stir to mix the solutions completely. Continue to add iodine solution, 1 drop at a time, until the solution in the well remains blue-black even after thorough stirring. Record the number of drops used in Table 1.
- Repeat step 3 for the second well. Use a **clean** toothpick for stirring.

Table 1. Observations

Trial Number	Vitamin C concentration	Vitamin C (# of drops)	Iodine (# of drops)
Trial 1	7.02×10^{-3} mg/drop		
Trial 2	7.02×10^{-3} mg/drop		

- Calculate the total number of milligrams of Vitamin C present in 10 drops of Vitamin C solution, using the concentration given in Table 1. Show your work in the space below.
- Calculate the milligrams of Vitamin C that react per drop of iodine solution for each trial. Show your work in the boxes on the next page.

Trial 1	
Trial 2	

Average of the results of the two trials _____

- Explain why it was important to run 2 trials and average the results.

Determining Vitamin C Content in Juice

- Add 10 drops of the juice sample and 2 drops of starch solution to each of 2 clean wells. Stir each mixture with a **new** toothpick.
- To one of these wells, add iodine solution, 1 drop at a time, stirring after each drop, until the solution remains blue-black. Record the number of drops of iodine solution used in Table 2.
- Repeat step 9, using a new toothpick, for the other well.

Table 2. Observations

Trial Number	Juice (# of drops)	Iodine (# of drops)
Trial 1		
Trial 2		

Determining the Effect of Fe^{3+} on Vitamin C

- Add 10 drops of juice and 2 drops of the solution containing Fe^{3+} to each of 2 clean wells. Stir each mixture with a **new** toothpick.
- Allow this mixture to stand for several minutes. You will be returning to these for further analysis in step 16.

* * * * *

- Calculate the milligrams of Vitamin C in the 10 drops of juice for each trial (steps 9 and 10). Use your calculated value from question 6. Show your work in the boxes below.

Trial 1	
Trial 2	

Average of the results of the two trials _____

- Given that 20 drops of juice = 1 mL, determine the number of milligrams of Vitamin C per mL for the juice. Show your work in the space below.
- The current RDA for Vitamin C is 60 milligrams. How many mL of the juice you analyzed would you have to drink to meet the daily Vitamin C requirement? Show your work in the space below.

16. Return to the wells containing the Fe^{3+} and juice solutions. Add 2 drops of starch solution to **each** of these wells.
17. To one of these wells, add iodine solution, one drop at a time, stirring well after each addition. Continue to add iodine solution until the solution remains blue-black after thorough stirring. Record the number of drops of iodine used in Table 3.
18. Repeat step 17, using the solution in the remaining well and a **clean** toothpick.

Table 3

Trial Number	Juice (# of drops)	Fe^{3+} Solution (# of drops)	Iodine (# of drops)
Trial 1			
Trial 2			

19. Compare your results in tables 2 and 3. Explain any differences.

PART B

Make your answer detailed and complete.

A food company is about to market a new breakfast drink advertised as a wonderful source of Vitamin C. They are concerned about the stability of the Vitamin C in the product. They are considering various forms of packaging: steel (contains iron), plastic, and cardboard containers.

You have been hired as a consultant to make recommendations about the packaging and storage for this new product.

Figure 1 shows cost of manufacturing 1-liter containers of various materials.

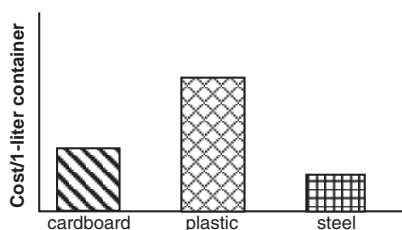


Figure 1. Cost of Manufacturing Containers

Figure 2 shows the effect of heat and light separately on two samples of Vitamin C.

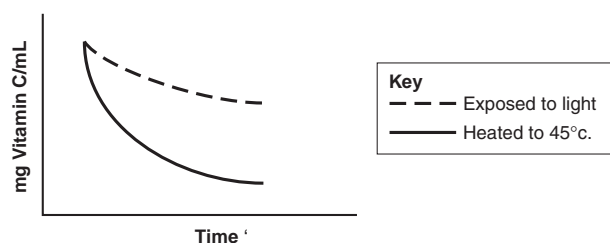


Figure 2. Effect of Heat and Light on Vitamin C

- A. Based on your information from the laboratory task, cost (Figure 1), and environmental impact, what type of container would you recommend? Explain your choice and reasons for **not** selecting the other two materials.
- B. Using the information in Figure 2, what additional recommendations would you make concerning the packaging and storage of the breakfast drink? Explain your reasoning.

More sample questions and information about the GSE are included in the teacher guides available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/sca> on the Internet.

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma–2000

Questions and Answers

What is the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma?

Assembly Bill 3488, approved in July 1996, called for the development of the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma (Golden State Diploma) to recognize graduates who have demonstrated mastery of the high school curriculum in designated content areas. More than 1,370 graduates were awarded Golden State Diplomas in 1997, the first year of the program, and 2,685 were awarded in 1998. To date, more than 4,410 Golden State Diplomas have been awarded to 1999 graduates.

Do the Golden State Diploma requirements change the voluntary nature of the Golden State Examinations?

Assembly Bill 3488, establishing the Golden State Diploma, requires that districts make the Golden State Examinations available for any student who wishes to participate.

How do students qualify for the Golden State Diploma?

Students must attain high honors, honors, or recognition designations on six Golden State Examinations to be eligible for the Golden State Diploma. Currently, these achievement levels must be reached on the Golden State Examinations in U.S. history, written composition or reading/literature, a mathematics exam, a science exam, and two other Golden State Examinations of the student's choice.

What Golden State Examinations are currently offered?

There currently are thirteen Golden State Examinations offered: first-year algebra, geometry, high school mathematics, U.S. history, economics, government/civics, biology, chemistry, second-year coordinated science, physics, reading/literature, written composition, and Spanish language.

Which Golden State Examinations can be used for the optional exams?

Once students have taken the four required exams, other Golden State Examinations can be used as the two optional exams. Currently, this would include exams in math, language arts, and science not used for the requirements and the economics, government/civics, and Spanish language exams.

Can students take the exams at any time after completing the courses?

Students who are enrolled in a GSE subject area at the time the examination is given and students who took the course since the previous test administration may take the exam. Exceptions are written composition, reading/literature, high school mathematics, and Spanish language. The exams in language arts and high school mathematics are designed to test mastery of the high school curriculum and are not attached to a specific course. Students in either grade eleven or twelve can take the exams in written composition and reading/literature. The high school mathematics examination is intended for students who have completed three years of high school mathematics. The content of this exam is based on the standards adopted by the State Board of Education for algebra I, geometry, algebra II, and probability and statistics. Students completing a second-year integrated mathematics course may take either the first-year algebra exam, the geometry exam, or both. Students may take the Spanish language examination at the end of their second year of Spanish or its equivalent. Students are eligible to take each GSE only one time.

How can students apply for the Diploma?

Individual students do not need to apply to the state for the Golden State Diploma. This is done on their behalf by their school districts through a certification form that districts forward to the state.

Do districts need to send student records to the CDE as part of the certification?

No. Each spring the California Department of Education (CDE) sends a certification form to each district. The district is to list each eligible student, and the district superintendent's signature is to certify that the students listed have met the Golden State Diploma requirements.

How do districts verify student records?

Districts are responsible for keeping records of individual Golden State Examination accomplishments. In 1997, each district received a data disk containing GSE results from previous years to help compile individual records of achievement. Districts will continue to receive disks with GSE results following each administration of the exams.

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma–2000

Questions and Answers

What does the Golden State Diploma look like?

The Golden State Diploma follows a traditional diploma design with the official state seal in gold and is signed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the President of the State Board of Education, and the District Superintendent and Board President. A sample of the Golden State Diploma appears below.

What if our schools cannot administer the Golden State Examinations on the scheduled dates?

A testing window has been made available for those districts that cannot test on the established testing dates. The testing window for winter 2000 extends from Monday, January 10, to Tuesday, February 1. For spring 2000, the window extends from Monday, May 1, through Wednesday, May 31. Districts testing outside the established window are required to complete the winter 2000 or spring 2000 *Request for Alternate Test Dates* form. This written request must include the proposed dates for giving the exams and the reason for the request.

Will the results from the winter and spring testing be back in time for graduation?

Every effort is made to have the Golden State Examination results from winter testing distributed to districts and schools during the month of May. Spring results are distributed in October.

More questions?

If you have general questions about the Golden State Examinations or the Golden State Diploma, call the Standards and Assessment Division of the CDE at (916) 657-3011, fax (916) 657-4964, or e-mail at star@cde.ca.gov.





Golden State Examination

- 1983 Established by Senate Bill 813,
Hart (Chapter 498/1983)
- 1991 Reauthorized by Senate Bill 662,
Hart (Chapter 760/1991)
- 1995 Reenacted by Assembly Bill 265,
Alpert (Chapter 975/1995)
- 1996 Identified for the Golden State
Seal Merit Diploma in Assembly
Bill 3488, Ducheny (Chapter
204/1996)



About the GSE...

- GSE is a voluntary program for students in middle and high schools
- All exams must be made available to students by districts
- All exams test subject knowledge and application
- Students can attain one of three top levels of achievement—high honors, honors, or recognition



Students Who Reach One of the Top Three Levels of Achievement...

- Receive the Academic Excellence Award
- Have their award entered on their permanent transcripts
- Are recognized by schools, communities, colleges and universities, and potential employers for the accomplishment

Students who attain High Honors or Honors also receive a gold insignia for their diplomas.




Growth of GSE

- In its first year (1987), GSE offered two examinations—first-year algebra and geometry
- In 2000, GSE offers thirteen examinations—first-year algebra, geometry, high school mathematics, U.S. history, economics, government/civics, biology, chemistry, second-year coordinated science, physics, written composition, reading/literature, and Spanish language
- Student participation has increased from 96,567 in 1987 to 1,094,956 in 1999
- About one out of three GSE participants earns high honors, honors, or recognition designations each year



Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

- Authorized by Assembly Bill 3488, Ducheny (Chapter 204/1996)
 - Annually awarded to graduates who demonstrate mastery of the high school curriculum in designated content areas
 - Requires attainment of high honors, honors, or recognition designations on Golden State Examinations in U.S. history, written composition or reading/literature, a mathematics exam, a science exam, and two other Golden State Examinations of the student's choice
- 



Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

- The Golden State Diploma program requires that districts make all Golden State Examinations available to students



Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

- Golden State Diploma designations are added to recipients' records
 - Golden State Diploma recipients are recognized by schools, districts, the community, colleges and universities, and potential employers
 - More than 1,370 graduates were awarded Golden State Diplomas in 1997
 - In 1998, 2,685 Golden State Diplomas were awarded
 - To date, more than 4,410 Golden State Diplomas have been awarded to 1999 graduates
- 



Golden State Examination Testing Dates Winter 2000

Economics

Part I	Tuesday, January 11
Part II	Wednesday, January 12

Government/Civics

Part I	Tuesday, January 11
Part II	Wednesday, January 12

High School Mathematics


Part I	Tuesday, January 11
Part II	Wednesday, January 12

Reading/Literature

Part I	Thursday, January 13
Part II	Friday, January 14

Written Composition

Part I	Wednesday, January 19
Part II	Thursday, January 20



Golden State Examination Testing Dates Spring 2000

First-year Algebra

Part I

Tuesday, May 23

Part II

Wednesday, May 24

Geometry

Part I

Tuesday, May 23

Part II

Wednesday, May 24

Economics

Part I

Tuesday, May 23

Part II

Wednesday, May 24

Government/Civics

Part I

Tuesday, May 23

Part II

Wednesday, May 24

U.S. History

Part I

Tuesday, May 23

Part II

Wednesday, May 24

Biology

Part I

Thursday, May 25

Part II

Friday, May 26

Chemistry

Part I

Thursday, May 25

Part II

Friday, May 26

Second-year Coordinated Science

Part I

Thursday, May 25

Part II

Friday, May 26

Physics

Part I

Thursday, May 25

Part II

Friday, May 26

Spanish Language

Part I

Tuesday, May 30

Part II

Wednesday, May 31

Recognizing Achievement

Your student can now earn state recognition for academic achievement in two ways—through the Golden State Examination (GSE) and the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.

Since 1987, thousands of students in California's public schools have been recognized for outstanding achievement on one or more of the state's Golden State Examinations. In 1996, state law established the Golden State Diploma to further recognize students who earn high honors, honors, or recognition levels of achievement on six or more Golden State Examinations during their school career.

Achievement on the GSE or as a Golden State Diploma recipient is noted on students' permanent transcripts and included in applications for college, universities, and military appointments. This recognition also signals high academic achievement to future employers.

Students should be encouraged to take advantage of these two opportunities to demonstrate academic excellence.

What Parents Should Know about...

*Golden State
Examination*



*Golden State Seal
Merit Diploma*



Questions and Answers about Golden State Examinations and the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma



What is the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma?

The Golden State Seal Merit Diploma was established by state law in 1996 to award a special honors diploma for outstanding academic achievement to high school graduates. Recipients receive the Golden State Diploma in addition to their regular high school diploma.

How can my student earn a Golden State Diploma?

Students must achieve high honors, honors, or recognition on six Golden State Examinations to earn the Golden State Diploma. Students must earn these designations on the U.S. history exam, one mathematics exam, one science exam, the written composition or reading/literature exam, and two Golden State Examinations of the student's choice.

What subjects are covered by the GSE?

There are thirteen Golden State Examinations that cover:

- First-year algebra, geometry, and high school mathematics
- U.S. history, economics, and government/civics
- Biology, chemistry, second-year coordinated science, and physics
- Written composition and reading/literature
- Spanish language

Who is eligible to take the GSE?

The GSE is available to: (1) students who are enrolled in a GSE subject area at the time of the examination; and (2) students who completed the course since the previous GSE was given.

Exceptions are the exams for written composition, reading/literature, high school mathematics, and Spanish language. Parents and students should consult with their teachers or counselors about suggested qualifications and timing for taking these exams.

What happens if my student doesn't score at one of the top three levels of achievement on a GSE?

Students whose scores fall below high honors, honors, or recognition levels face no penalty or mention of non-achievement. Although a GSE can only be taken once, students should be encouraged to try again on other Golden State Examinations.

When are the exams given?

Golden State Examinations in written composition, reading/literature, and high school mathematics are offered only in the winter. The economics and government/civics exams are given in winter and spring. All other GSE exams are offered in spring only.

How can parents get more information?

More information about the GSE or Golden State Diploma is available at schools with grades 7 through 12 or at the school district testing office. GSE information also is posted on the Internet at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/sca>. A student planning worksheet is also available.

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LOS LOGROS

Cualquier estudiante puede obtener ahora el reconocimiento del Estado por sus logros académicos de dos formas: aprobando el examen «Golden State Examination» (GSE) y obteniendo el título “Golden State Seal Merit Diploma”.

Desde 1987, miles de estudiantes de las escuelas públicas de California han obtenido reconocimiento por haber superado uno o más de los exámenes oficiales “Golden State Examination” GSE. En 1996, se estableció por ley el título “Golden State Seal Merit Diploma” para distinguir a quienes alcanzan un nivel de “high honors” (sobresaliente), “honors” (notable) o “recognition” (suficiente) en seis o más exámenes GSE a lo largo de su escolaridad.

La superación del GSE o la obtención del título “Golden State Seal Merit Diploma” se hacen constar en el expediente del estudiante y se incluyen en las solicitudes para ingresar en los colegios universitarios, en las universidades y para los empleos militares. Este reconocimiento es también indicativo de una buena formación académica para futuros empleadores.

Se debe animar a los estudiantes a que aprovechen estas dos oportunidades para demostrar su alto nivel académico.

LO QUE LOS PADRES DEBEN SABER SOBRE EL EXAMEN

*“GOLDEN STATE
EXAMINATION”*

Y EL TÍTULO

*“GOLDEN STATE SEAL
MERIT DIPLOMA”*



PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS SOBRE EL EXAMEN “GOLDEN STATE EXAMINATION” Y EL TÍTULO “GOLDEN STATE SEAL MERIT DIPLOMA”



¿Qué es el título “Golden State Seal Merit Diploma”?

El título “Golden State Seal Merit Diploma” fue creado por ley estatal para recompensar con un título a quienes destacan por sus resultados académicos en los estudios de secundaria. Los receptores de este título lo reciben adicionalmente al título habitual de estudios secundarios.

¿Cómo se puede obtener el título “Golden State Seal Merit Diploma”?

Para obtener el “Golden State Seal Merit Diploma” los estudiantes deben alcanzar un nivel de «high honor» (sobresaliente), «honor» (notable) o «recognition» (suficiente) en seis o más exámenes GSE. Estos seis exámenes deben ser: el de historia de los Estados Unidos, uno de matemáticas, uno de ciencias, uno de composición escrita o lectura/literatura y dos más a elección de cada estudiante.

¿Qué asignaturas se incluyen en los exámenes GSE?

Hay trece exámenes GSE que abarcan las siguientes materias:

- Álgebra de primer año, geometría y matemáticas de secundaria.
- Historia de los Estados Unidos, economía y educación cívica/política.
- Biología, química, física y ciencia integrada de segundo año.
- Composición escrita y lectura/literatura
- Lengua española.

¿Quién puede presentarse al GSE?

Se pueden presentar los estudiantes que:

1. En el momento del examen GSE estén cursando la asignatura de la que trata el examen.
2. Hayan aprobado la asignatura después de la fecha del último examen GSE sobre la misma.

Las excepciones son los exámenes de composición escrita, lectura/literatura, matemáticas de secundaria y lengua española. Los padres y los estudiantes deben consultar con sus maestros o consejeros sobre los requisitos exigidos y las fechas para presentarse a los exámenes.

¿Qué sucede si un estudiante no obtiene una puntuación en uno de los tres niveles superiores en un examen GSE?

Los estudiantes que no alcancen los niveles de «high honor» (sobresaliente), «honor» (notable) o «recognition» (suficiente) no serán penalizados ni se hará mención alguna de que no han obtenido la puntuación requerida. A pesar de que cada examen GSE sólo puede tomarse una vez, se debe animar a los alumnos a presentarse a otros exámenes GSE.

¿Cuándo son los exámenes?

Los exámenes GSE de composición escrita, lectura/literatura y matemáticas de secundaria se ofrecen solamente en invierno. Los exámenes de economía y educación cívica/política se ofrecen en invierno y en primavera. Los demás exámenes GSE se ofrecen únicamente en primavera.

¿Cómo pueden los padres obtener más información?

Hay más información sobre el examen GSE y el título “Golden State Seal Merit Diploma” en las escuelas con nivel del 7 al 12, o en la oficina de pruebas del distrito escolar. Así mismo se puede obtener información sobre el GSE en la siguiente dirección de Internet: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/sca>. También está disponible una hoja de planificación de estudios para los alumnos.

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Achievement on the GSE or as a Golden State Diploma recipient is noted on your permanent transcripts and included in applications for college, universities, and military appointments. This recognition also signals high academic achievement to future employers.

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Examination*

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What subjects are covered by the GSE?

There are thirteen Golden State Examinations that cover:

- First-year algebra, geometry, and high school mathematics
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- Biology, chemistry, second-year coordinated science, and physics
- Written composition and reading/literature
- Spanish language

Who is eligible to take the GSE?

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When are the exams given?

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How can I get more information?

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Golden State Examinations Golden State Seal Merit Diploma Student Planning Guide

Student	Grade
School	County
School district	Date

Golden State Examination	Grade when GSE will be taken	Year GSE completed	Level achieved*
Mathematics			
First-year Algebra	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Geometry	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
High School Mathematics	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Science			
Biology	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Chemistry	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Second-year Coordinated Science	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Physics	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Language Arts			
Reading/Literature	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Written Composition	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
History-Social Science			
Economics	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Government/Civics	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
U.S. History	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Spanish Language	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

* Level Achieved: High Honors, Honors, Recognition

Eligibility for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

Students must attain high honors, honors, or recognition designations on six Golden State Examinations to be eligible for the Golden State Diploma. Currently, these achievement levels must be reached on the Golden State Examinations in U.S. history, written composition or reading/literature, a mathematics exam, a science exam, and two other Golden State Examinations of the student's choice.

**Golden State Examinations
Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
Student Status Report**

Name

This document is to be completed when GSE results
for examinations taken at grade 11 are received.

School

County

School district

Date

Examination	Grade level	Level achieved*	Exams to be taken in grade 12
Mathematics			
First-year Algebra	_____	_____	_____
Geometry	_____	_____	_____
High School Mathematics	_____	_____	_____
Science			
Biology	_____	_____	_____
Chemistry	_____	_____	_____
Second-year Coordinated Science	_____	_____	_____
Physics	_____	_____	_____
Language Arts			
Reading/Literature	_____	_____	_____
Written Composition	_____	_____	_____
History-Social Science			
Economics	_____	_____	_____
Government/Civics	_____	_____	_____
U.S. History	_____	_____	_____
Spanish Language	_____	_____	_____

* Level Achieved: High Honors, Honors, Recognition

Receiving High Honors, Honors, or Recognition on the following examinations qualifies the student for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma: U.S. history, written composition or reading/literature, one mathematics examination, one science examination, and two examinations of the student's choice.

This form may be sent with college admission information to document achievements on the Golden State Examinations.

I verify that the listed information is true and accurate.

authorized signature

date

Sample Newsletter Article for Principals

Your student can earn state recognition for academic achievement in two ways—through the Golden State Examination (GSE) and the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.

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Students should be encouraged to take advantage of these two opportunities to demonstrate academic excellence. For more information, contact the school office or your student's teacher.

